

After Words for Afterwards

September 11, 2001

The world crashes and changes forever. We struggle for answers ... the right words. WHY? WHAT NEXT? As we try to keep going, life feels different, becomes a more serious matter. We seek calm in the world around us, within our families and faiths, and in our daily routines. Since September 11 two general meetings, The Map unveiling, and a walking tour have taken place with the BHS. People and buildings - where they live, learn, work and gather - are intrinsically bound. They feature in this issue, poignant reminders of everyone's connection with their history.



The BHS walking tour features the former Haggert Lea (corner Nelson and Elizabeth Streets), home of John Haggert, the first mayor of Brampton.

Let's review the good times we have shared as the BHS family this past year and the new people with their fresh ideas who have joined our group.

2002 BHS executive:

President	Peter Murphy
Past President	Heather Gunter
Vice President	Michael Avis
Recording Secretary	Janice Smith
Corresponding Secretary	Brian Bonsma
Treasurer	Gerry Clarkson

December 2001 is a time to thank, remember and look forward, as reflected in this issue of Buffy's Corner. We pray for a peaceful 2002.

Buffy

Buffy's Corner

The official newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society
Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History
Buffy's Corners, the original name of Brampton, was the site of the respectable tavern owned by William Buffy, considered to be the father of Brampton. His pioneer spirit (pun intended) lives on in the name of our journal. History "buffs" are invited into The Corner to share their stories and comments.

Volume 3, No. 4 December 2001

In This Issue:

A Century of Quilts
Christ Church of Brampton
Take A Stand
Westervelt's Corners

Buffy's Corner Staff

Editor Dorothy Willis
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Brampton Historical Society Executive

President Heather Gunter
Past President Paul Hunt
Vice President Michael Avis
Treasurer Gerry Clarkson
Recording Secretary Janice Smith
Corresponding Secretary Peter Murphy

Buffy's Corner
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BHS
c/o Peter Murphy


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Brampton Hysterical Society Joke-of-the-Month

A group of chess players were at Buffy's Inn, standing in the lobby bragging about their best games. Buffy appeared and asked them to disperse. "But, why?" they asked, moving off. "Because", replied Buffy, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

Buffy's Corner, published 4 times per year, is free to BHS members (see back page for membership details)

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Printed by Peel Graphics Inc., 240 Clarence St. Brampton

All Aboard!

Becky Bulmer
Maureen Chown
Douglas Howard
Evelyn Howard
Doug Ireland
June MacDonald
Paul Pamboukian

TIME TO RENEW
FOR 2002!!



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Heather Gunter

As President of the BHS, I would like to extend my appreciation for the efforts put forth by The Society up till this time.

We have made progress and come a long way. What we have accomplished in three years is a credit to the members and executive team.

Looking back at the historical events of the last 4 months: "Classic Cars and Legendary Stars" event, which took place at Gage Park; "Show and Tell", the BHS event on September 20; the gala featuring the unveiling of the 1857 Bristow and Fitzgerald map on September 21; the Region of Peel Agricultural Society donation of \$6300 (raised for the Brampton Memorial Hospital Foundation at the Peel 2000 Homecoming at the Brampton Fairgrounds); the walking tour with Steve Collie; the presentation by Cathy Willoughby, "Every Quilt Tells a Story". Some members continue to do double duty, participating at Historic Bovaird House and, more recently, the Ebenezer United Church Foundation.

On October 12, the Heritage Canada Foundation honoured friend-of-heritage, Pam Douglas, with the first annual Journalism Prize for her contributions to local heritage issues.

Also honoured was former Ontario Historical Society Executive Director Dorothy Duncan, who received the Lieutenant Governor's Award. The City of Victoria received the Prince of Wales Prize.

We are now drawing to year-end and planning for new horizons and also a new executive. We attend meetings and functions and record events. Those records become files and those files become history. Become part of our team. Let history grab you!

Viva Downtown Brampton!

Michael Avis, Vice President and Architecture Chair

In the last few years Brampton has witnessed the unprecedented growth of vast subdivisions and sprawling industrial complexes. While all the various municipal services must be provided at considerable cost, The City is nonetheless enjoying both an ever-expanding residential and commercial tax base and also an exploding population that pours millions of dollars into the local economy.

However, "progress" does not come without its casualties. With each week that passes it becomes increasingly obvious to many residents of Brampton that our built heritage is increasingly in jeopardy.

Now, more than ever, it is vitally important that our own Canadian heritage and history be preserved, celebrated and promoted for the benefit of all, but especially for our new Canadians who have chosen Brampton as their new home.

While the thrust of development is inevitable (and desirable) it is important that we look towards the preservation of our older neighbourhoods. Homes, streets, parks that are linked intricately to our 19th century pioneer forefathers such as Elliott, Haggert, Chisholm, Gage, Buffy, Vodden, along with 20th century figures such as the Dales and Calverts, were all responsible for the very creation of our city. None of them should be forgotten.

The City is to be congratulated for taking a very bold and enlightened major step forward in heritage preservation. Following the recommendations of the Brampton Heritage Board (LACAC) The City gave historical designation to "Alder Lea" (the former Chisholm mansion). This step demonstrated the significance of Kenneth Chisholm as a powerful, influential founding father. While much work at the political level remains to be done, the rebirth of Alder Lea could be a catalyst for the preservation and improvement of the entire area.

Main Street South, including homes located to the east and west, must be considered prime areas worthy of "Heritage Conservation District" designation. The Ontario Heritage Act, administered by the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, promotes the protection of Ontario's diverse and rich heritage buildings and places. Part V of the Act specifically addresses the protection of groups of properties that collectively give our area a special character.

The southern entrance to the downtown core is a source of immense pride to all residents of Brampton (see images on page 8). With foresight, sensible and sympathetic planning, and a firm resolve, we must keep it that way.

BHS HAPPENINGS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

September 20, Show and Tell

BHS members shared memorabilia and cool stuff.

Peter Murphy with archaeological artefacts, as found in his garden; Ben Madill entertained with a "show and guess" presentation of clinker, a corn-sheller and a rope-making machine, including a demonstration of his skill; Bob Turner dashed through with railway telegraphy, including a demonstration of Morse Code; Sharon Peet gave a finely honed presentation of her saw sharpener; Doug Ireland chimed in with his 1910-vintage clock; Jane Connor showed her memento elephants; Cathy Willoughby did a prequel to her quilt presentation; Paul Willoughby delivered his collection of Brampton postcards; Freda Garden helped wind down the night with a 100-year old clock, a present to her parents; Doug Howard pitched in with a hay fork; Rowena Cooper presented examples of lace and bobbins.



Ben Madill makes rope with the help of BHS'er Al Brooks.

September 21, Map Gala

The unveiling of the 1857 Plan of the Town of Brampton (Bristow & Fitzgerald Surveyors) featured hospitality provided by The Art Den and entertainment by The Jazz Mechanics.



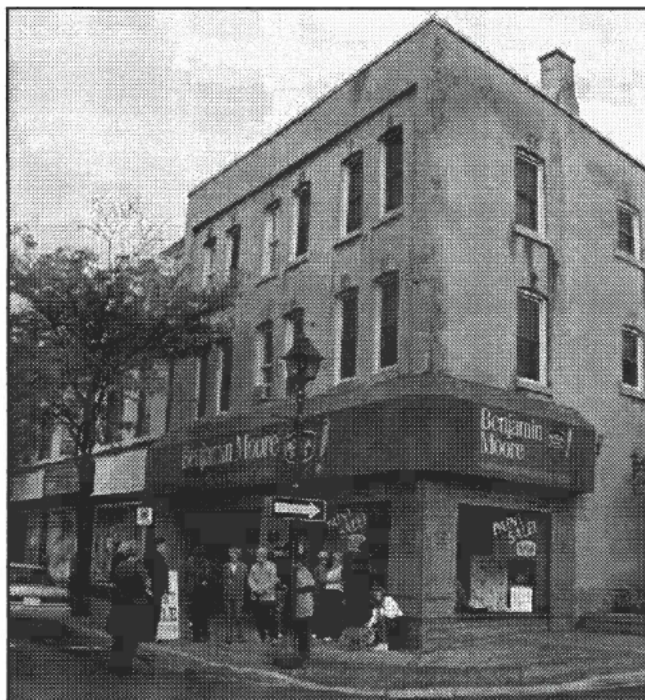
Peel Heritage Complex Curator David Somers with City and Regional Councillor Susan DiMarco admire our map.



It was all a frame-up! 1857 Map framers Arthur Alder and The Art Den's Lidija Capar were on hand for the gala. Gala event photos courtesy of the Gunter Collection

October 13, Walking Tour of Brampton

Tour guide Stompin' Steve Collie gave his second tour of downtown Brampton.



Steve Collie addresses the group in front of Harmsworth's paint and wallpaper store - the oldest business in Brampton, family-run for five generations, since 1906.

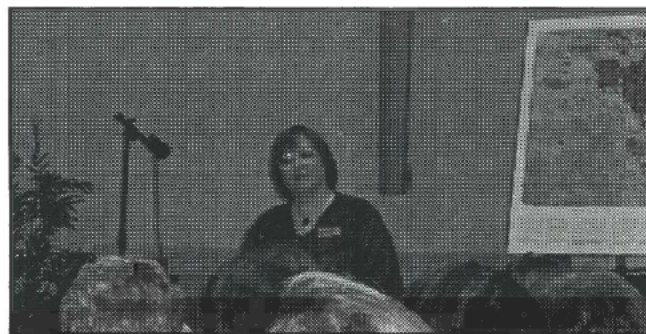


The crowd enters the Village Deli and Pastry Shoppe for refreshments provided courtesy of proprietor Frank Vespi.

the village
deli and pasta shoppe
Frank Vespi
8 Nelson Street
(N.W. corner of Hwy. 10 & Nelson)
Brampton, Ontario L6X 4J2
(905) 450-1020

October 18, Every Quilt Tells a Story

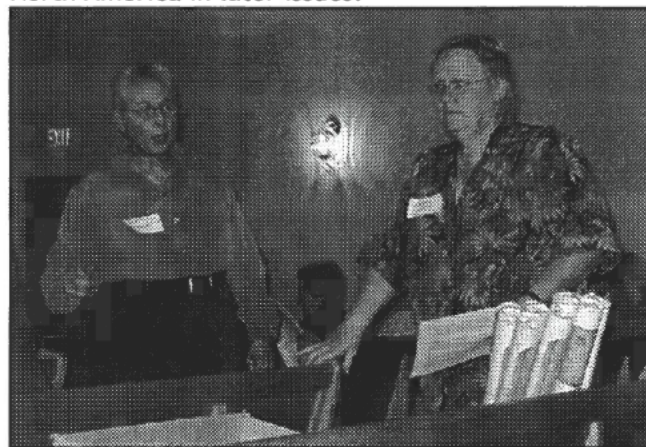
Cathy Willoughby presented a history of quilting complete with samples.



Cathy debunks a quilting myth: they don't need to be hand made to be a true quilt. An excerpt of Cathy's presentation follows on pages 6 and 7.

November 15, How to Start a Family Tree

The BHS branched out with a talk by Dorothy Kew, Chair of the Halton/Peel Genealogical Society. Dorothy spoke of various resources and research techniques. More on the 2nd fastest-growing hobby North America in later issues.



Dorothy Kew and assistant Jane Watt issue literature.

Also, the **Annual General Meeting and Executive Elections** were held! In addition, BHS Legal Counsel Colin Campbell presented the new BHS bylaws. When the BHS was accepted as an affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society, it automatically became a corporation and as such required governing bylaws. The bylaws were accepted and thanks extended to Colin for creating and presenting them.

MARVELLOUS MAP UPDATE

Prints of the restored 1857 Plan of the Town of Brampton (Bristow & Fitzgerald Surveyors) are being donated to the 101 Brampton elementary and secondary schools as an educational reference for our students. Sales of the prints are brisk. Kudos to Treasurer Gerry Clarkson, who has sold over sixty prints since their release. With the gift-giving season here, the prints will be a "hot item" at the low price of \$15.

PATS FOR PAM

Paul Hunt



Pam Douglas holds her award, flanked by Past President Michael Seaman (left), current President Heather Gunter and Vice President Michael Avis (right).

Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection

"The pen is mightier than the sword" is an expression we have all lived with since our school days. To actually see it at work is awesome. When the Heritage Canada Foundation announced that they were going to give an annual "Heritage Canada Journalism Prize" to the Journalist who focused on the community's preservation of built heritage, we could think of no finer example of this person than Pam Douglas of the Brampton Guardian. Pam has been wielding her pen around Brampton for quite some time, and it shows.

The following is a quote from the Heritage Canada news release of July 12:

"The jury unanimously chose Ms. Pamela Douglas, a reporter for the Brampton Guardian newspaper to receive the first Heritage Canada Journalism Prize for her sustained and focus coverage of local heritage issues. For the past ten years, her articles have changed community opinion and gained support for preservation. In some cases her stories even had a beneficial "shock value" in getting the City of Brampton to improve its heritage bylaws.

Members of the Brampton Historical Society are proud to have sponsored Pamela and pleased that she won.

Michael Seaman put together in a binder all the published articles she wrote relating to historical and heritage matters. This was a monumental task and looked like a book when it was finished. Also included in the presentation were letters from private individuals, the Heritage Board, which was endorsed by the City of Brampton and the Peel Heritage Complex. A big thank you goes to everyone who contributed to this endeavour. Pam, all your hard work finally paid off. As the recipient of the first-time awarding of this prize, we say, "congratulations, you deserve it!"

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Historic Bovaird House

Christmas Open House

December 1 & 2, 10:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SE corner Kennedy Road and Bovaird Drive, Brampton

Info: 905.874.2804 and www.bovairdhouse.ca

Email: bovairdhouse@hotmail.com

Halton - Peel Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Using LDS Resources and Family History Centres

Speaker: Jane MacNamara.

Sunday, January 27, 2:00 p.m.

Chinguacousy Branch - Brampton Public Library

150 Central Park Drive, Brampton

Info: call Dorothy Kew, [REDACTED]

Friends of the Schoolhouse

Christmas Open House

Sunday December 2, 2001, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Visit the Schoolhouse

On the 2nd Sunday of every month the Old Britannia Schoolhouse will be open from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Info: 905.459.9158 and www.britanniaschoolhouse.org

Esqueusing Historical Society

The Age of Post Cards

A show of many of the post cards in the EHS collection.

Wed. Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown.

Acton: The History of Leathertown

Author Mark Rowe will highlight the features of the first book to explore Acton's history from 1819 to 2000.

Wed. Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown.

Milton Historical Society

The Stevenson Hospital on Martin Street presented by MHS member and author **John McDonald**.

Thursday, November 15

Coffee at 7:30 p.m.; presentation at 8:00 p.m.

Hugh Foster Hall (next to the Town Hall)

Pot Luck Dinner

Thursday, December 20, 2001 Time and Place TBA

Brampton Historical Society

The Search for New Volunteers

Continues through to 2002

Contact any Executive member for more info.

A Century of Quilts

Cathy Willoughby



Recording Secretary Janice Smith assists Cathy in displaying various quilts.

What is a quilt? Essentially a quilt consists of two layers of fabric sewn together with a filler in between. The word quilt comes from the old French cuilte, meaning mattress. The word twylt and quylt can be found in early English writings. It is almost impossible to document where and when quilting originated as early textiles were, unfortunately, biodegradable. Quilting is generally thought to have come from Central Asia, where quilted carpets are known to have existed at least a century before Christ. Quilted fabric was brought to Europe in the 11th to 13th centuries by the Crusaders, who used it as padding under metal armour or as armour itself for both men and horses. By the 17th century, quilted clothing was common for men, women and children. It included caps, petticoats, jackets and vests. We seem to have come full circle, given the current fashion among both quilters and non-quilters for quilted clothes.

Bed quilts appear to have evolved at this time, in the style called "whole cloth" i.e. large pieces of plain fabric, usually wool, seamed together to the required size, then quilted with elaborate patterns. The marking of the quilting pattern - and quite often the quilting itself - was usually done by men. Several itinerant quilt makers from the City of Durham were quite famous for their designs. Indeed, in some parts of Britain, this style is still called a "Durham quilt".

The Palampore, a type of painted or printed bedcover imported from India, inspired appliqué work. These covers were very expensive, so when the background began to wear out, the flowers, birds and other motifs were cut out and applied to a new background. Quite often they were not quilted, just backed and used as a summer coverlet. English manufacturers began producing printed panels that could be cut out and appliquéd to a plain round. This style was also known as "Broderie Perse" or Persian embroidery. The process of designing one's own motifs from plain and

printed fabrics soon followed. Many of these quilts were made to showcase one's needlework skills and not as useful bedclothes.



Nancy Simpson (r) brought some quilts to contribute to the evening; here she examines some pieces with President Heather Gunter.

Patchwork developed separately, using designs that had existed for hundreds of years. Many of the common quilt patterns such as Tumbling Blocks, Inner City and Square Within a Square can be seen in the marble floors of European churches. The Log Cabin design has been found decorating caskets and murals in ancient Egyptian tombs. The Brampton Guild logo, the Dresden Plate, dates to 500 BC, although its name came much later. In a museum in London, I saw a small silk piece in the Clamshell pattern that had been sewn by Mary, Queen of Scots while in the Tower of London.

The two techniques, piecework and quilting came together in North America in the mid-18th century. The early quilts were hand-sewn and rather utilitarian. One of the myths about quilt making that must be debunked is the belief that a true quilt must be hand-pieced. When I go with the Guild to demonstrate at events, I often take along some hand piecing, simply because it's easy to carry. People will say to me, "that's the right way to make a quilt!" NOT SO!

In 1846 Elias Howe was granted the first patent for a sewing machine. Five years later, Isaac Singer invented the first practical domestic sewing machine (and also the layaway plan). 150 years ago the average woman's life was an endless round of cooking, cleaning and other household chores. If a sewing machine could help her to quickly make warm bedclothes for her family, why wouldn't she take advantage of it? How many of you would give up your vacuum cleaner or washing machine and go back to the traditional methods of cleaning? I have seen quilts more than 110 years old that were pieced, appliquéd, quilted and or bound by machine. Indeed, several years ago I saw a

Mennonite Quilt from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania dated 1880 that had been machine-appliquéd and bound.

Another of the quilt-making myths that need debunking is the belief that all pieced quilts were made from old clothes. The ones that were are probably not around any more. People had fewer clothes, which they wore until they were worn out or cut down or handed down through the family. For the most part, what we call Scrap Quilts were made from the remnants left from dressmaking, fabrics traded with friends and fabrics bought specifically for quilts.

Before 1785, when the invention of the power loom mechanised fabric production in England, all fabrics were hand-woven. And in North America they continued to be hand-woven well into the 19th century. The power loom was introduced in America in 1814 and by 1820 mass manufacture of fabric was well underway. From colonial days, raw materials such as indigo and cotton had been sent, to England to be returned as finished goods. England had kept a tight grip on fabric production, prohibiting the importing of any printing tools as late as 1782. By the early 1800's, most of the secrets had been leaked to the United States and mills were being established, mostly in New England. Block, copper plate and roller printing methods were being used in England and America.



Freda Garden and Joyce Campbell were on hand for the evening; Joyce also contributed with her own samples.

The early quilts were made from wool or linen. Until the mid-20th century, the Amish and Mennonites were still making wool quilts. By the late 1800's, the American cotton crop had begun to recover from the devastation of the Civil War. The invention of more efficient roller presses, coupled with improved chemical dyes, helped the New England mills to churn out hundreds of different prints to tempt dress and quilt makers. Cotton became the fabric of choice for pieced quilts and it still is. Contemporary art quilts may contain such diverse fabrics as hand-dyed or computer printed cottons, silks and rayons, photo transfers, lamés, leather, netting and many more.

The first commercial batting was introduced by Stearns and Foster in 1846, but some found it more economical to continue to use home-made raw wool or cotton batting. Old blankets, sheets and even tattered quilts were used as well. Synthetic batting, specifically terylene, was introduced in the 1960's, followed by polyester. Cotton has made a comeback, alone or combined with polyester. Washable wool batting is available as is, silk. Stearns and Foster, who made the Mountain Mist brand, recently introduced fusible batting that eliminates the need for basting the layers together before quilting.

Like fashion, quilt making has gone through many styles, some of them long-lasting, others merely fads. The development of new tools, computer programs, and sewing machines dedicated to quilts has completely revolutionised quilt making in the last 20 years. When I made my first quilt in 1972, I used the same basic tools as several generations before me - cardboard templates, pencil and scissors. The tool that changed quilt making in the 1980's and helped create a multi-million dollar industry was not invented for quilters, the Olfa rotary cutter was originally meant to be used with a fixed blade, like an Exacto knife. But some unknown genius discovered that a loose blade rolled, easily cutting a long strip of paper, cardboard, or even better, FABRIC. A self-healing mat was needed to protect both the blade and the cutting surface. A straight edge to cut along came next. This single manufacturer makes more than a dozen different-sized rulers. And the gadgets keep coming year after year, some useful, some not.

Where will quilting go from here? What will the next trend be? Already there are quilts being made to remember to the events of September 11th, to honour those who lost their lives and to comfort their families. We will continue to make quilts to celebrate the happy occasions in our lives - a marriage, a new baby, a graduation, a retirement. Quilts always have been, and will continue to be, a record of everyday life.



"That just about covers everything," announced Cathy to Dianne Pappin, Jane Connor and Heather Gunter.

TAKE A STAND

Bob Crouch

Take a Stand, a quasi-regular feature, appears whenever pressing issues of historical significance present themselves. Bob Crouch is a co-chair of the Brampton Heritage Board, Chair of the Churchville Heritage Committee and policy director (heritage) for HACE.

His opinions are his own unless otherwise stated.

Readers of Buffy's Corner will have shared the disappointments of Brampton's heritage communities with respect to the preservation of built heritage resources in this city. The majority of those losses were in the sixties and seventies, before preservation was considered a resource. As a result, the best preserved central business districts in our province are in those locations that were for one reason or another ignored by developers and banks' architects. A declining local economy was the best protection.



The Main Street South district of Brampton, looking north.

Thanks to the efforts of the Brampton Historical Society and other concerned residents of our city, Council has passed bylaws that may contribute to preservation of remaining structures. Strong heritage language in our official plan and secondary plans, a demolition control bylaw, and a planning department mandate to update our Honour Roll of Heritage Structures and consideration and funding for proposed Heritage Conservation Districts around the area of downtown Brampton are all indicative of a municipal commitment to preservation. The City is also developing a Heritage Policy for municipally-owned heritage buildings.



The Main Street South district of Brampton, looking south.

The designation of Alderlea is an indication that the preservation of Heritage Structures has found a place in municipal politics. The Arts Council's "Village in the City" and council's promotional initiative "The Flowertown of Canada" are further evidence that our municipal leaders are recognizing a value in our built heritage resources.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, councillors do not have a policy that may be enunciated on a consistent basis to planners and developers. The councillors do ask for help in that regard. Never before having indicated an intention to designate without owner's consent, Alderlea was encroaching new planning territory.

But what do councillors do with a somewhat lesser ranked home or commercial building? How do they encourage development that includes preservation of this building or that grouping of buildings? What candies may they throw the developers' way to promote preservation? How may they "sell" homeowners the concepts contained in a heritage conservation plan, which will result in an extra permit process for exterior renovation in order to protect the integrity of the streetscape?

I am encouraged that the City has reached the point that the "H" word is now clearly recognized as a component in differentiating Brampton from those municipalities that compete for developers' dollars. We have a wonderful inventory of built structures, particularly around downtown and in our city's western reaches. We have wonderful neighbourhoods around downtown Brampton that fairly reflect the architectural graces of Victorian times. I am of the opinion that a strong heritage policy is a good thing; Brampton will be seen as more than a land bank of inexpensive turf.

Please go to the City's website and link yourself to HACE. Take a look at the Honour Roll, and the rankings of the resources that will appear on the site over the next couple of months. Ponder, criticize, amend or add. The rankings are not perfect and never will be, but readers' local knowledge is indeed a valuable resource. And prioritize. Since we can't save everything, what structures or clusters will best reflect our heritage?

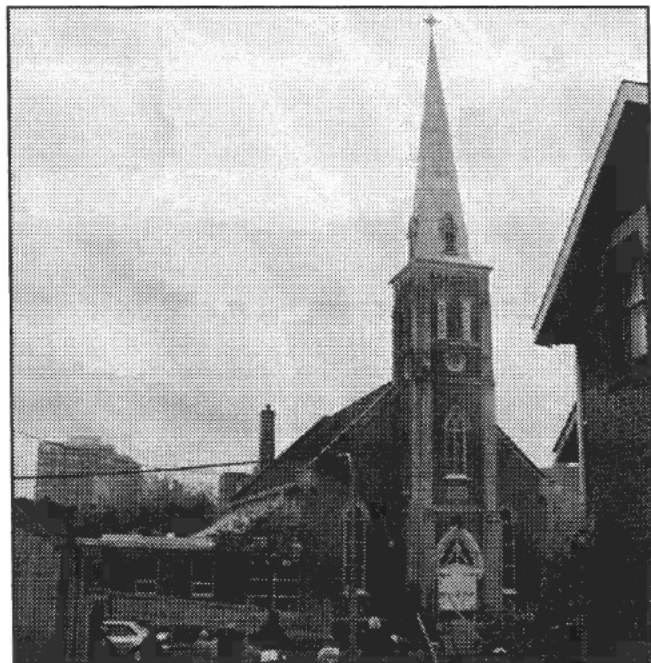
Think about where the building in which you may take a particular interest is in relation to the inevitable development and help develop a preservation strategy. Think about uses to which the buildings might be put, both public and private. Think about business plans. Everything is not going to be saved, but as the policies to implement our Heritage Tools are now being considered, NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTRIBUTE.

Email me at rcrouch@prousedash.ca. All ideas are welcome.

Christ Church (Anglican) Brampton Celebrates 150 Years of Service

Albert Post, Sesquicentennial Committee Chairperson (and BHS member).

The original Brampton parish of the Anglican Church of Canada is 150 years old in November 2001.



Christ Church (Anglican) was featured in the recent BHS walking tour.

The present church buildings are located at the corner of Queen and Elizabeth Streets, where the Anglicans and others have worshipped since 1884. This church building replaced a brick church that was located at about 10 Joseph Street. The present building, having been purchased by the Anglican congregation from the Episcopal Methodist congregation. Prior to the Joseph Street location the Anglicans worshipped in a church building located on Chapel Street, near the Armoury. The initial services were conducted by the Rev. William Guise Tucker, who appears to have been the first full-time incumbent in Brampton.

The events celebrating this milestone include:

- Updating the church history book
- The re-visit of as many of the previous clergymen as possible to preach at a Sunday service
- Distribution of commemorative souvenirs
- A large parish dinner on November 24th, 2001
- The hanging of a large banner on the south exterior wall of the church
- A review of the beautiful stained glass windows of the church, some of which date back to the Joseph Street site in the early 1860's

The events are being organised by several long-time members of the Parish: Joan Powell, Ken Cuthbert, Albert Post, Edna Whillans, Phil Thompson, Gerry Cuthbert, Tanis Ironside, Al White, Inez Moore, Norma Martin, Claire Bowen, Judith Reigel, and Peggy Armstrong, and of course, The Rector, The Rev. Kim Beard, ably assisted by The Rev. Vic Reigel and The Rev. Mary Pataki.

More information can be found by contacting the church office at 905-451-6649

Renew Your membership:

The BHS Memberships for 2002 now on sale.

UP AND COMING EVENTS FOR A NEW YEAR

January 17 "The New Ebenezer/Toronto Gore Heritage Foundation" with Frances Johnson

February 21 "Heritage Legislation" with Robert Saunders, Community Heritage Ontario

March 21 To be confirmed

April 18 "Two Hundred Years of Eating and Drinking in Ontario" with Dorothy Duncan, former Executive Director Ontario Historical Society

May 16 "The Avro Arrow Story" with Claude Sherwood, Project Director of Avro Arrow Replica (that is, if Diefenbaker doesn't suddenly cancel it)

June 15 Walking tour of Historic Meadowvale Village with Jimmy Holmes



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General Enquiries Since 1973

Buffy's Corner is printed thanks to the generosity of Peel Graphics Inc.

BHS Meetings - the third Thursday of the month

January - May and September- November

7:15 p.m. Heart Lake Presbyterian Church

25 Ruth Street, Brampton

Wheelchair-accessible

Admission free to members, others: \$5



KEE NOTES FROM FRED

By Fred Kee

Westervelt's Corners: "No. 10"

Before I leave lot 11, West of Hurontario, I should mention when A.P. Westervelt died, his farm was put up for sale in York (Toronto).

The purchaser was a man by the name of Gummerson. He not only purchased the fifty acres adjoining the inn, he also purchased the fifty acres north on Highway 10 (Hurontario Street), which had a brick house and a small barn.

Gummerson had eight sons and four daughters and it was his ambition to give each son a farm. After moving his family from York to the brick house on the upper fifty, he began to buy more farms. He purchased the hundred acres west of the railroad on 7 Highway from Ben McMeekin. This farm was purchased by my father, Albert Kee, about 1920. The farm across the road on the north side of 7 Highway he purchased from Thomas McMeekin and in my time that home was owned by James Wiggins, a bachelor.

One of the tragedies of the early days was the accidental death of William Gummerson, when a tree fell on him while he and his brother were cutting timber for the house on Wiggins farm.

Armstrong Brothers Construction purchased this farm; the house was rebuilt and in use until the late seventies when the Armstrongs rezoned the farm to industrial and the old house was removed.

Gummerson also purchased the farm on the south side of 7 Highway, at No. 10. This farm was owned

by Stafford White and later by his son James until it was purchased in 1953 for development. Now the Gummerson homestead was purchased by Maylon Simpson; being a grandson, the ownership of this farm came back to the Gummerson clan after being owned for many years by the McLeans and finally by James Marshall. The lower fifty had been rented for many years by Jimmy Bovaird.

The Simpson family consisted of Josephine, who was married to Raymond Newns and had purchased the original Westervelt house from his father-in-law after Maylon Simpson had moved to the upper fifty that Gummerson had once owned. Kathleen, the second daughter, built a house on the farm and still resides there. Maylon, the son, resided for a time in the old farmhouse, but now resides in Brampton.

Maylon Simpson Sr. had the distinction of owning a 1929 auburn six-wheel sedan, which was a rare vehicle in those days and a valuable collector's car by today's values. It was a real head-turner when the Simpson family went shopping on Saturday.

Now on the opposite side of Highway 10, which was Lot 11 East Chinguacousy Township, this hundred acres was owned by Richard Watson in 1877. At that time it had a log house near the Etobicoke River at the rear of the farm, with the laneway entering off 10 Sideroad (current-day Bovaird Drive). When Henry Carter purchased this farm he built a lovely brick house, as well as a large bank barn on Highway 10.

Early in 1900 he sold this farm to Arthur Poyntz and Carter purchased the farm on Lot 11, on the west side of First Line East (current-day Kennedy Road). This farm became "The Carter Homestead".

Next issue ... The history of the Bovaird Homestead

Application for membership in the BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY (bramhis@home.com)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E mail: _____

Additional Household Members: _____

Signature: _____

☐ I enclose a Household Membership fee of \$20 for a full year or \$10 for a half year

☐ I wish to enclose an additional donation to the Society of \$ _____

Please mail cheque or money order to:
Brampton Historical Society
c/o Peter Murphy, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
American money accepted at par